

# Global Partners Project

## Monmouth and Coe Collaboration in Orientation /Reorientation Programming for Exchange Students 2002-2003

### Final Report

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For the original project proposal, please see  
[http://department.monm.edu/offcampus/GlobalPartners/global\\_partners\\_project.htm](http://department.monm.edu/offcampus/GlobalPartners/global_partners_project.htm)).

#### **Project Description**

*Project Goal:* Monmouth and Coe Colleges will continue to build and strengthen college-sponsored exchange opportunities through collaborative orientation/reorientation experiences for students preparing for and returning from international off-campus study exchange programs and for international students on exchanges at Monmouth and Coe Colleges .

#### **Project Objectives**

**Objective 1:** To continue the work of the joint Exchange Program Acclimation Committee (EPAC) comprised of faculty/staff members from Monmouth and Coe Colleges that plan, oversee, and evaluate orientation and reorientation activities for exchange students (The term *exchange student* is used for Monmouth and Coe students who study abroad on exchange programs and for international students who come to our campuses as exchange students.)

**Objective 2:** To hold two orientation/reorientation programs, one in the fall and one in the spring, for exchange students

**Objective 3:** To investigate the development of an exchange program new to one or both of the campuses.

#### **Report**

Members of the 2002-2003 Exchange Program Acclimation Committee (EPAC) were Pam Carstens and Deanna Jobe of Coe College and Ken McMillan, Helen Ochs, and Tom Sienkewicz (Project Coordinator) of Monmouth College. All members of this team were part of the 2001-2002 EPAC team. John Chaimov of Coe College was on sabbatical for this academic year. The committee benefited from its work the previous year and found it easy to plan, oversee, and evaluate two (re)orientation programs for Coe and Monmouth exchange students. Unlike the first year, where several planning meetings were held, the committee was able to maintain regular contact via phone and e-mail throughout the year to accomplish its goals.

The EPAC Committee used the 2001-2003 objectives as a starting point for planning this year's programming: 1.) to prepare American students for the general problems and challenges of living and studying abroad; 2.) to assist American students returning from exchange programs in their process of reacclimatization to the United

States; 3.) to assist international students in their process of acclimatization to the United States; and 4.) to make all of these students more aware of cultural differences and ways to deal with such differences. In addition the committee relied upon its experiences from 2001-2003, and especially student feedback, to plan the 2002-2003 programs. The profile of participants in these programs included: Monmouth and Coe students who had returned from exchange programs abroad, Monmouth and Coe students who were planning to go on an exchange program the following semester, international students from institutions with which Monmouth or Coe have agreements, and members of EPAC. Unfortunately, the committee did not invite representatives from either Knox and Cornell Colleges to observe either program, as originally planned.

The fall program was held at Monmouth College on Saturday, November 16, 2003. A copy of the agenda for this program can be accessed at <http://department.monm.edu/offcampus/GlobalPartners/FallProgram2002.htm>. Seven students (four from Coe and three from Monmouth) attended this program along with five faculty from both institutions. Students were asked to evaluate this program and make suggestions for improvement. Their comments are available at: <http://department.monm.edu/offcampus/GlobalPartners/EvaluationsFall2003.htm>.

The spring program was held at Coe College on Saturday, April 12, 2003. A copy of the agenda for this program can be accessed at: <http://department.monm.edu/offcampus/GlobalPartners/SpringProgram2003.htm>. Twenty three students (eight from Coe and fifteen from Monmouth) attended this program along with five faculty from both institutions. Students were asked to evaluate this program and make suggestions from improvement. Their comments are available at: <http://department.monm.edu/offcampus/GlobalPartners/EvaluationsSpring2003.htm>.

At both programs students were specifically asked to mention positive and negative points. While there was strong enthusiasm for the program in general, students did not particularly like the video shown at the spring program. Members of EPAC fully agreed with these student comments and discussed ways that the video could be used more effectively another time. It is clear that the best aspect of these programs is the opportunity for students from the two institutions to interact with each other. The more student-driven such the activities at these programs are, the more successful they tend to be. Structure seems to be less important than informal conversation and sharing of experiences.

The members of EPAC did not devote any time to the third objective for this grant, namely investigation of new exchange program opportunities for the two schools, although there was some informal discussion about sharing information concerning exchange programs each institution currently sponsors. There is some interest in pursuing this objective, but such an effort would require significantly more resources of time and money than were available this year.

These programs have been excellent opportunities for students, faculty, and staff at both institutions. While there some desire to continue these collaborative activities, budgetary constraints will probably keep such events from happening, at least in 2003-2004.

For a description of the grant which funded this activity, see [http://department.monm.edu/offcampus/GlobalPartners/reorientation\\_program.htm](http://department.monm.edu/offcampus/GlobalPartners/reorientation_program.htm) [global\\_partners\\_project.htm](http://department.monm.edu/offcampus/GlobalPartners/global_partners_project.htm).

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